NEWS

Sen. Pat Jehlen receives New England Innocence Project Arc of Justice award

JOYCE WESTNER | STAFF WRITER

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Winchester State Sen. Patricia Jehlen with Sean Ellis, Exoneree Network director/PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NEW ENGLAND INNOCENCE PROJECT

Sen. Pat Jehlen received the New England Innocence Project (NE
Justice award for her years of dedicated service supporting wrong

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convicted people and their families at the annual storytelling event, *Voices of the Innocent*, on Sept. 12 at City Winery Boston.

Jehlen told the News that in 2004 her bill gave "exonerees annuities of up to half a million dollars, which had been capped at only $50K before."

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According to the NEI's press release, the award recognizes the special contributions of a community member who "bends the arc of the moral universe toward justice."

Jehlen has been an incredible partner to the New England Innocence Project NewEnglandInnocence.org over the last 20 years and has truly bent the arc of the moral universe toward more justice for wrongfully convicted people, including passing landmark legislation to compensate victims of wrongful convictions and championing funding for the Exoneree Network.

"The New England Innocence Project has helped free numerous innocent people, often after decades in prison," says Jehlen. "I worked to pass the 2004 Wrongful Convictions compensation law, based on stories like that of Lawyer Johnson. But even when people like Sean Ellis were exonerated after decades in prison, they had to fight for months or even years to get any compensation."

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She told the News that 91 prisoners had been exonerated, including Sean Ellis, the current president of NEIP. Ellis was featured in a Netflix series, “documentary Trial 4,” about his 22 years in jail for supposedly killing a police officer in Boston.

NEIP is an independent social justice non-profit that works to correct and prevent wrongful convictions and fights injustice within the criminal legal system for innocent people imprisoned for a crime they did not commit in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

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Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for renters, buyers

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

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March 4, 2026

Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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